

We know we can save about \$30 billion every 5 years by having the buildings we acquire or lease become lease purchase because then the taxpayer gains from the real estate rise in value associated with those buildings. We have a lot to change in what we do. I am not a partisan Republican, but I am very partisan about the future of this country and what has to change to do that.

Some other examples I would want the American public to know that we could do something about tomorrow: We have an earned-income tax credit that has a 40-percent error rate on it. That means billions of dollars every year get paid to people who do not qualify for their earned-income tax credit, but we do not fix it. We have not fixed it. Shame on us. We have \$350 billion a year that is owed in taxes to the Federal Government—that is what the tax gap is this year—that will not be collected.

As a matter of fact, last year, the IRS, through incompetency, was putting on board a new program. They threw away their old program. But the new program was not ready, so they do not have a way to go back and track the problem tax payments. That is going to cost us \$50 billion, \$60 billion in lost revenues—one stupid error after another.

We have a program to help people with food called food stamps, except we have an error rate there, where we give out \$1.6 billion to people who are absolutely not eligible for that program every year. In this very short conversation of what we have talked about, we have talked about over \$400 billion that we would have. We would not be running a deficit now if we did some things efficiently.

In the last 2 years, the subcommittee I chaired, along with TOM CARPER, the Senator from Delaware, had 46 hearings oversighting Federal financial management. We came up with, either from waste, fraud or duplication—not counting the tax gap, not counting any of these other things I have talked about—\$200 billion of fraudulent, wasteful or duplicative programs associated with the Federal Government.

What the American people ought to be asking us is, rather than creating new programs, fix the ones we have. Make them efficient. Eliminate the duplications.

I am planning, when I come back, to send a letter to my colleagues outlining what my procedures plan to be in terms of blocking new bills to the

floor. I thought I would read it into the RECORD tonight so that if anybody has any disagreement with it, they would come speak with me.

First is for me to agree to a unanimous consent on legislation in the 110th Congress, the bill has to conform to the vision of the limited Federal Government set forth by the Constitution and our Founding Fathers. In other words, it has to be constitutional.

Second, if it creates or authorizes a new Federal program or activity, it must not duplicate an existing program or activity.

Third, if a bill authorizes new spending, it must be offset by reductions in real spending elsewhere.

If a program or activity currently receives funding from sources including, but not limited to, the Federal Government, the bill shall not increase the Federal Government's share of that spending.

Finally, if a bill establishes a new foundation, museum, cultural or historic site, or other entity that is not an agency or a department, the Federal funding should be limited to the initial start-up cost plus an endowment that can be added to through private funding.

The way we get out of the problems facing our country starting in 2012 is to endow the future rather than expand it. If we start endowing things—one of the former Presiding Officers, the Senator from Arkansas, had a plan to honor Bill Clinton's birthplace home. I am not against that at all. But the average cost to the American taxpayer for every President's birthplace home—and there are only 22 of them—is a million dollars a year. Divide that out for a minute. That is \$3,000 a day to take care of a birthplace home. Most Americans would kind of like to have that to care for their home.

The answer to that is to create an endowment with a million dollars, set it up as a fund for the Bill Clinton birthplace home endowment. It can never be touched. People can give money to that, and they can care for that. The earnings off of that will be about \$60,000 a year. That is about \$200 a day, or about \$5,800 a month. Most people in America—as a matter of fact, the vast majority of people in America don't come close to spending that on maintaining their home in a year. So we can generously endow what needs to happen for the future and use the power of compound interest to help secure the future for our kids.

My hope is that this spirit of bipartisanship we are starting off with will lead us to do the things the American people want us to do, and that is to get control of this behemoth we call the Federal Government. We can do it if we work together and if we are partisan for our children, partisan for the future of our country, and if we will do the oversight. If our oversight is going to point at what President Bush did wrong rather than what we can do right to fix programs, eliminate inefficiencies and fraud and waste, we will do much more for the country.

I hope the words we have heard today will be acted on the entire 2 years of the 110th Congress. If they are and we follow these guidelines, we will see a surplus much sooner than 2012. We can do that but not without the hard work and dedication that says future generations are worth it, worth us doing what we need to do to make the difference. We could take care of every need of the people in Louisiana because we have tons of waste where we are spending in the wrong way, whether it is bridges to Alaska or railroads across Mississippi or financing defense contractors when insurance is going to pay their bill anyway; we could do it.

We have to stop playing the game and start thinking about the long term. My hand is out to work with anybody, whether on this side of the aisle or the other side, who wants to solve the fiscal problems facing this country. Then we can get about solving health care and retirement programs associated with Social Security and Medicare.

ORDER FOR MEASURE TO BE
HELD AT THE DESK—S. RES. 19

Mr. COBURN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that S. Res. 19 be held at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COBURN. I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
JANUARY 8, 2007, AT 11:30 A.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate is adjourned until Monday, January 8, 2007, at 11:30 a.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:28 p.m., adjourned until Monday, January 8, 2007, at 11:30 a.m.